

## In the Wake of the Game

By GUS MALBERT

Last week was rather momentous in more ways than one in the realm of sports. The champion athlete of the world has been crowned professional champion and has confessed to the charge. Trophies won at the Olympic games have been returned. The accused and dethroned champion has received the sympathy of practically a united press, both on this side and the other side. He has received offers of every imaginable kind, from invitations to enter the vaudeville game to becoming an aspirant for heavyweight pugilistic honors. Practically every major league ball club put in bids for his services, and John J. McGraw, the little Napoleon of the Giants, won the prize.

Being a natural athlete, Jim Thorpe may develop into a ball player, but nothing in his past record would indicate that he is a star. Down in the Carolina League he showed nothing extraordinary excepting an awful thrill, which he quenched with apparently no ill effects upon himself, but to the utter humiliation of about half the police force of Raleigh, manhandling some six or seven of the coppers with wondrous ease. But McGraw is not counting upon the redskins as an active player. McGraw, being wise in the ways of the world, realizes that Thorpe to-day is probably the biggest box office card in either league, and will remain a big attraction throughout the playing season. When the Giants start on their return trip from Marlin, playing tank towns and one-night stands to pay the freight, Jimmy Thorpe is going to make of the exhibition games big attractions. Fans in the bushes will fall all over themselves to see the Indian, and McGraw will fill his coffers and gain more than a year's salary for the athlete before the playing season begins.

One of Ed. Lyons's friends, a prominent baseball writer of New York and an authority on the game, in a letter to the local man, says that Thorpe as a ball player is regarded largely as a joke in the big city, but all agree that he will prove a wonderful attraction, even for the satiated inhabitants of Gotham. Giving his opinion of Thorpe, the writer says that he will probably prove another "Buster" Raymond, basing this opinion on the Indian's reported thirst. The successful redskins in the game have been few and far between. Somehow or other they seem unable to withstand the temptations offered, nor do prosperity and much praise help them any. Of course, there are exceptions, and Big Chief Meyers, being one of the exceptions, and on the same club with Thorpe, may have some effect in keeping the younger man to the straight and narrow. Unless he is willing to behave, Thorpe will find his period of usefulness in the big league very short. At any rate, Thorpe will be here when the Giants come through in the spring, and the natives can have a good look at him.

Whether he makes good or not, and regardless of the Amateur Athletic Union or rules or anything else, Thorpe will go down in history as one of the "greats" in the athletic world. Though his prizes have gone back to Sweden, he won the two greatest events of the Olympiad, and will always be recognized as the winner. Rules can neither make nor unmake an athlete. Popularly, Thorpe will always be regarded as an amateur up to the time he begins playing baseball with the Giants. That's the real moral of the story. However, all this gushing talk about buying new prizes for him, or of taking penny collections, or of asking the Amateur Athletic Union to reinstate him, is silly. Nor can the argument be advanced that because other athletes have violated amateur laws that Thorpe should be excused for doing so. Such argument is driving out of the game the honest players who have never violated amateur laws. Thorpe is a lawbreaker, and he has to suffer. As to whether the law is good or not, that's another question; but remember that old saw that the best way to have a bad law repealed is to enforce it.

Some twenty-four hours after the story was printed exclusively in The Times-Dispatch, the rest of the State was to find out that Virginia Military Institute and Virginia Polytechnic Institute had signed agreements to play an annual football game on Thanksgiving Day in Roanoke. We are not patting ourselves on the back, because it is by no means unusual.

Petersburg will not accept without a grain of disappointment the success of Richmond in getting the services of Charles Berger, the college star, who lives in Falls Church. The Goobers put forth great efforts to get the youngster, and that they were not successful was due to no lack of endeavor on their part. A contract had been sent him, and it is evident that they felt that he had accepted the terms offered them. There can be but one circumstance which could please our friends to the south—the absolute failure of the boy to make good.

A track meet in Richmond, with 1,500 men and boys in competition, will be something of an innovation, yet the Richmond Amateur Athletic Federation will accomplish the feat, and the competitors will all be local men and boys. The exact date has not been determined, but it will be either in the latter part of April or the early days of May. The State Fair grounds will be secured for the purpose, and a more ideal spot could hardly be selected. The race course will be straightaway in front of the grandstand, and the main races could be held on the mile track. In the meantime plans will go ahead for the relay carnival to be held in connection with the Blues-College indoor meet, which will take place March 8.

Both of the teams which will represent Petersburg in the intercity bowling tournament in Washington next week have sent in application blanks. When they start to do anything in Petersburg they usually go through with it, a spirit which could bear emulation here in Richmond. During this week the amateur ball players will hold a meeting, and the men interested say that at least one, and maybe two, good leagues will be formed. If they are as successful in this effort as they have been in bowling, the leagues are as good as formed.

With Newport News and Roanoke both clamoring for an opening date, the Virginia League, the magnates may find something to solve when they gather here next week. Of course it isn't going to be serious, but because it has claims for consideration, and it will be up to the league to determine which has the better right to make the demand.

Work on the new park is progressing rapidly. A start will be made on the fence this week, and the grandstand is nearing completion. Excavator Phillips will begin operations on the field within the next few days. There are some few spots which need filling. The weather conditions are favorable as they have been, the plant should weather conditions quite as well as the last piece of wood has been torn down at the old park, removing once and for all a landmark and a training ground for some of the best men who have ever worn a uniform. Jesse Tammill, Sam Leevers, Chesbro, McGinn, Norman Elbert, Sparks and a number of others got their start in the old Broad Street Park.

Now that Big Chief Bender has signed his contract, only Eddie Plank remains without the Mack fold. Plank is very much interested in his farm and has said that he wouldn't play ball again, but Connie has a way of bringing the derelicts into the fold, and Plank may again be found working his left arm in the cause of the Athletics.

So far nothing real has been heard from either Ty Cobb or Sam Crawford. Tiger nothing. Jean Dubuc will sign, but the other two are still quiet. As neither Frank Navin nor Hugh Jennings seems to be very much upset over the holdouts, we should not worry.

## HOBOS WRECKED ON ROCKS OF SOCIALISM

Organization Founded by "Millionaire How" Is Declared Disbanded.

New Orleans, February 2.—The National Hobo Convention, which was held in New Orleans last night, was declared disbanded by President Jimmy Davis, the hobo organizer, who said that the hobo movement was a failure. Davis said that the hobo movement was a failure because it was based on the rocks of socialism, and that it was a failure because it was based on the rocks of socialism. Davis said that the hobo movement was a failure because it was based on the rocks of socialism, and that it was a failure because it was based on the rocks of socialism.

It is probable that How and Davis will organize a separate hobo union, the "Millionaire Workers," but Davis declared he does not want How's followers in his camp. Davis said that he was a hobo, and that he was a hobo, and that he was a hobo.

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## PALZER DEPARTS TO FIGHT IN PARIS

Tom O'Rourke Goes With Him, Conchard of Match With Johnson.

New York, February 2.—Albert Palzer and his manager, Tom O'Rourke, sailed for Europe on the American liner New York yesterday morning. Only a few personal friends knew they were going and where at the pier to see them off. According to O'Rourke, he is to fight Jack Johnson twenty rounds at the Wonderland Club in Paris on the night of June 25. O'Rourke insists that Johnson has accepted the club's offer and has agreed not to fight anybody else on this occasion, although on the other side of the Atlantic the sporting critics say that Johnson's opponent will be either Bombardier Wells or Joe Jeannette.

In taking Palzer to the other side O'Rourke evidently believes he can kill two birds with one stone. He is instituting a damage suit against an English sporting paper called Boxing, and the case will be tried this month in London. Incidentally O'Rourke will be able to get in closer touch with the French promoter Vincennes, who is said to be ready to guarantee \$50,000 for the Palzer-Johnson fight.

O'Rourke is taking a long chance in pitting Palzer against the negro. O'Rourke evidently thinks that if Palzer should happen to whip Johnson, a fortune could be reaped, in spite of the fact that Luther McCarty made Palzer look pitiable at Vernon, Cal., on New Year's Day.

O'Rourke has tried to explain Palzer's defeat with all sorts of statements, that the big fellow was a nervous wreck before the bout; that he wasn't properly trained; that O'Rourke himself was largely to blame because of poor coaching; and that Palzer didn't get a square deal from the referee. Against Sam Langford, unless there's something in the wind, Palzer should be easier than he was for McCarty. Furthermore, if Palzer ever meeting defeat at the hands of Charles will not last as long as he did a month ago.

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## URGENT LEADS IN SOUTHERN ZONE

Eight Sweepstakes and One World's Championship Won at Columbia.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Columbia, S. C., February 2.—The judging of all of the competitive exhibits at the National Corn Show, now being held in Columbia, has been completed. The judging is done by districts or zones first, and the first prize exhibits from each district are brought together for national championship honors. Virginia is in the Southern zone, composed of Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina, including Texas. That Virginia is at the head of this zone from an agricultural standpoint is shown by her winning, which consist of eight zone sweepstakes and one world's championship. The classes, winners and exhibitors follow:

Ten ears of yellow corn zone sweepstakes—B. A. Tucker, Delaware. Single ear, any color, zone sweepstakes—Henry Manick, New Ferry. Ten ears of yellow corn zone sweepstakes—George S. Nichols, Bedford. Peck soft wheat, zone sweepstakes—J. Bellows, South Richmond. Peck hard wheat, zone sweepstakes—H. C. Clemmer, Middlebrook. Sheaf timothy, zone sweepstakes—W. P. Moore, Forest.

Half of alfalfa, zone sweepstakes—James Bellows, South Richmond. Peck soft wheat, zone national and world's sweepstakes—W. P. Moore, Forest. Peck hard wheat, zone national and world's sweepstakes—W. P. Moore, Forest. Sheaf timothy, zone national and world's sweepstakes—W. P. Moore, Forest. Half of alfalfa, zone national and world's sweepstakes—W. P. Moore, Forest. Peck soft wheat, zone national and world's sweepstakes—W. P. Moore, Forest. Peck hard wheat, zone national and world's sweepstakes—W. P. Moore, Forest. Sheaf timothy, zone national and world's sweepstakes—W. P. Moore, Forest.

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## NELSON SAYS HE CAN SUPPORT TWO

Durable Dane Eager to Take a Fling at Lightweight Title.

Chicago, Ill., February 2.—Batting Nelson put his bride of a few days on a train for Denver and then turned to a telephone office and sent a burning challenge to Willie Ritchie for a battle for the lightweight title. "Retire from the ring? I should say not!" declared the Durable Dane. "Most fighters, after being married, sidestep matches by saying their wives won't let them fight again. In my case it is different. If I had to fight seventeen years to support one person—myself—I ought to go long I must continue in the ring to support two."

Nelson puts forth a logical argument for a battle with Ritchie. "Willie holds the title and, of course, he can dictate," says Bat. "Wolcott refused me a return match, in the face of the fact that I always gave my opponents a second and sometimes a third trial after I had beaten them. Ritchie is using Wolcott's refusal to give me a return match as an argument why he should ignore Wolcott. That is all right. I do come in! I ought to get at least consideration from Ritchie for the use of my name as an argument."

"I am absolutely certain that I can defeat Ritchie, especially over the Marathon distance. My stamina is still unimpaired and my hands are again in good shape. I am willing to admit that I will outpoint him for the first ten or fifteen rounds, but then I will begin to wear him down, and I believe I can stop him inside of twenty-five rounds. He can draw up the articles—any weight, any division of the purse he sees fit to make suits me."

Nelson has started training for his February campaign, four fights being booked. The Dane first meets Ray Sorenson, at Ravine, W. Va., February 5. Then he has two fights in Pennsylvania for the following week, and on February 22 he clashes with Ray Woods for ten rounds at New Bedford, Mass.

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## PERHAPS CHANCE FOR JIM THORPE

At Any Rate, He Seems Able to Check Further Murphy Comment

New York, February 2.—When Frank Chance sent a telegram to Charles Webb Murphy the other day threatening to shut him up if he continued his personal remarks, the owner of the Cubs said he was through and that he did not care for a further controversy. Now fans are asking: "What answer lies in a statement that Chance, if he cares to, can prove that Murphy's knowledge of baseball is limited? In fact it is said that Chance can furnish facts that will convict Murphy of blunders and mismanagement that would have wrecked the Cubs long ago if Chance and such players as Tinker and Evers had not saved him."

Murphy talks and writes as if he knew the game from A to Z, but there are others equally gifted whose actual judgment is of more value. It is said of one such person that between the hours of 6 P. M. and 4 P. M. the next day he is the greatest baseball manager in the world.

Murphy was a humorous writer on a Cincinnati paper a dozen years ago when he was asked to report baseball games. He regarded his new job as a source of merriment, and never treated it seriously. He admitted to his fellow-reporters that he knew nothing about the rudiments of the sport. When he got hold of the Chicago club persons who knew Murphy intimately threw in these facts with astonishment. They didn't believe that he knew enough to score a game correctly. But Murphy was sufficiently wise to know that he had bought a strong ball team, managed by the late Frank Selee, one of the best that ever lived. Selee built up the Cub machine, without the slightest interference, while Murphy counted the money and sold the team. When Selee was forced to give up the management because of quick consumption Frank Chance stepped into his shoes. Chance, well schooled by Selee, followed with similar winning methods and Murphy kept on counting money.

The clash between Chance and Murphy last fall